



Issues and Concerns

The Water Connection - March 1995

The Water Connection is a new monthly newsletter from Tucson Water which is designed to keep you up to date about what's going on at your water department. You'll read lots of good news here as we move to change the way things have been done in the past. You'll also read some bad news here from time to time, because I believe that the people of Tucson should know what's going on at their water department. You'll also find information on studies, options, and improvements at Tucson Water and what they mean to you. I believe we should all work together to solve our water issues.

Kent McClain, Director, Tucson Water

Making Progress:

Repair Crews Winning "Race Against Time"

Workers from around the western U.S. are working 70 hours a week to complete repairs to Tucson's Avra Valley Pipeline west of the city. Corrosion discovered in the joints that connect the pipe sections might lead to a break in the pipeline if it is not repaired. The 25-mile-long pipeline that was built in the early 1970's brings 20% of our water to Tucson from the Avra Valley Wellfield.

Tucson Water project manager Jim Broaderick, reported that welding crews from as far away as Montana and Louisiana are at work on the pipeline. The repairs to 410 joints in the weakest section of the pipeline must be completed by March 31st so that water from Avra Valley can be used to meet Tucson's high water demand during the summer season.

Kent McClain, Director of Tucson Water, believes the job will be done on time. "In order to meet the March 31st deadline, we've mobilized Tucson Water personnel and dozens of craftsmen, engineers, and inspectors," McClain said. "Each suspect joint must be uncovered, inspected, and repaired. It's an enormous job." Repaired joints are subjected to rigid quality control tests before they are considered complete. McClain added that repairs to other parts of the line will probably be needed at a later time.

Potential problems with the pipeline were discovered late last year during a routine examination. Lack of proper electrical continuity in pipe joints and cracks in the pipes protective coating have lead to corrosion at many of the pipe joints and the potential of a pipeline break.

Things Have Changed At Your Water Department

There are some new faces at your water department and with those new faces have come new attitudes, new approaches to Tucson's water issues, and, as you will see, plenty of experience with providing customers with quality water.

Kent McClain, Director of Tucson Water...

was selected for the job in August, 1994. He has more than 30 years of experience in city government, management, and operations and was the Arizona cities representative to the group that helped develop Arizona's Groundwater Management Act of 1980. McClain has managed watershed acquisitions, well and water system construction, and treatment plants, directed planning for future water sources and water conservation programs, and overseen operations of both potable and reclaimed water systems. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

James Stump, Deputy Director of Tucson Water...

has been involved in water utility management for 15 years. He has had responsibility for water treatment and distribution systems, construction of water systems projects, developing water billing systems and water rate structures, and implementing utility budgets. Stump earned his masters degree in Public Administration at the University of Michigan.

Jennifer Gillaspe is Tucson Water's new Water Operations Administrator...

and was formerly an Assistant Operations Manager for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation where she was responsible for operations, maintenance, and repair of water systems including the Central Arizona Project. She serves on the Governor's Riparian Area Advisory Committee and holds a bachelor of science in geotechnical engineering from the University of Arizona.